

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09

RSC-01 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8918

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E.O. 11652: N/

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJECT: WORLD ASSEMBLY ON THE AGING

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY DEPT, US DEL AND MISSION OFFICER QUERIED A NUMBER OF REPS TO THE COMMISSION ON SOVIAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN A WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING. NONE OF THE FOL-
LOWING DELS WERE INTERESTED: UK, ITALY, CYPRUS, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA. AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MALI, SUDAN, NIGERIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SAID THAT THE ELDERLY ARE NOT A PRI-
ORITY ISSUE AND THEY WOULD RATHER FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON OTHER, MORE CIRITICAL MATTERS OF DEVELOPMENT. MEXICAN DEL WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING BUT DID NOT REPLY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO CONFER WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. EUROPEAN DELS ALSO GAVE NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ECE REGIONAL MEETING ON THE SUBJECT.

3. DURING CSD SESSION, THE OBSERVER FOR SPAIN INFORMED THE COM-
MISSION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IN FAVOR OF CONVENING A SECOND CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE AGED. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOS WAS PREPARED TO HOST THE
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CONFERENCE IN 1976 AND TO BEAR MOST OF THE COSTS INVOLVED IN

THE PREPARATION AND HOSTING OF MEETING SO THAT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UN WOULD BE VERY LIMITED. THE CONFERENCE WAS ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED BY THE FIFTH PLANNING CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PLANNING.

4. NONE OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS RESPONDED TO THE SPANISH OBSERVERS INVITATION. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY COMMENT THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO TAKE NOTE OF SPAIN'S PROPOSAL.

5. US DEL DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH UK REP, ASKED IF HIS GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. THE REPLY WAS NEGATIVE. UK DEL SAID THAT THE MINISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT MET BIENNIALY AND DISCUSSED ALL SOCIAL ISSUES INCLUDING AGING. HE SAID HE FELT THE CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY SPAIN WOULD NEVER TAKE PLACE BECAUSE IT DUPLICATED THE EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS MEETING.

6. BELGIAN DEL SAID HE HAS CONTACTED HIS GOVERNMENT AND WAS TOLD TO SEE HOW OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FELT ABOUT SPAIN'S PROPOSAL. HE QUESTIONED ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BOTH EAST AND WEST). ALL MEMBERS SAID THEY HAD NO INTEREST. WHEN HE RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO THE GOV, IT WAS DECIDED THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, BELGIAN DEL DOUBTED ANY EE COUNTRIES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ANY MEETING HELD IN SPAIN.

7. BELIGIN REP SAID THAT SPAIN MIGHT RAISE THE ISSUE OF A CONFERENCE ON AGING IN ECOSOC WHERE THEY HAVE MEMBERSHIP AND COULD PUT FORTH A BETTER ARGUMENT FOR A MEETING ON AGING.

8. US REP SPOKE WITH SPANISH OBSERVER AND INDICATED US INTEREST IN CONFERENCE AND ASKED IF OBSERVER STATUS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF THE MEETING TAKES PLACE. US WAS TOLD THAT OBSERVER STATUS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

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